

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: GUIRINGAUD ON PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT,
JUNE 6
REF: (A) STATE 138075; (B) STATE 135953

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD CALLED ME IN TO DISCUSS THE PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT CONTRACT. HE BEGAN BY NOTING THAT THE FRENCH INTERMINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY WOULD NEXT MEET ON JUNE 15 AND WOULD GIVE FORMAL REVIEW TO THE REPROCESSING PLANT CONTRACT AND THE EXPECTED FRENCH DECISION TO CANCEL FURTHER WORK. THE FRENCH EXPECT A SERIOUS REACTION FROM PAKISTAN INCLUDING CANCELLATION OF A NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS. THIS IN TURN WILL PROVOKE REACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE. TO REDUCE THIS REACTION FRENCH FEEL IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO SHOW THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP CONTINUING. PROBLEM IS THAT PAKISTAN WILL WANT CREDIT AND FRANCE HAS NO LARGE CREDITS AVAILABLE.

2. THUS IN PREPARATION FOR THE JUNE 15 MEETING, THE MINISTER WANTED TO DEVELOP THE APPROACH THAT,
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ALONG WITH THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE REPROCESSING PLANT CONTRACT, THE FRENCH COULD OFFER TO PAKISTAN IMMEDIATE MILITARY ASSISTANCE CONSISTING OF FRENCH PRODUCTS, E.G. MIRAGE AIRCRAFT AND ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT FRENCH NORMALLY SELL TO PAKISTAN, TO BE PURCHASED WITH OUTSIDE CREDITS THE FRENCH HAD ARRANGED. COULD THE USG MAKE AVAILABLE CREDIT

(ABOUT \$250 MILLION) TO BE USED BY PAKISTAN TO PURCHASE THE FRENCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE JUNE 15 MEETING, THE GOF WOULD NEED REASONABLE ASSURANCES FROM THE US OR OTHERS THAT FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BUY FRENCH ARMAMENTS. GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT WANT TO RISK CANCELLING THE REPROCESSING PLANT CONTRACT IF THE RESULT WAS THAT ALL FRENCH ORDERS WERE CANCELLED AND US GOODS WERE IMMEDIATELY BOUGHT IN THEIR PLACE.

3. I SAID I THOUGHT US FMS CREDITS COULD NOT BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THIRD COUNTRY MAJOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT FRENCH CREDITS FOR UCH ASSISTANCE WERE VERY LIMITED AND HAD ALREADY BEEN DISBURSED; THE IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT CREDITS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. I SAID I WOULD TRY TO GET A RAPID RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON TO MEET THE SCHEDULED JUNE 15 MEETING.

4. COMMENT: IT IS A BIT MUCH FOR THE FRENCH TO NOW ASK US TO FUND THEIR CONTINUING SALES TO PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, I CAN APPRECIATE GUIRINGAUD'S AND GISCARD'S DILEMMA OF PERSUADING A RELUCTANT GROUP TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT WITH THE PREDICTABLE
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RESULT OF NO MORE FRENCH SALES AND A SUBSTITUTION OF US SALES HERETOFORE TIED UP BY THE GLENN AMENDMENT. AS I SEE THE SITUATION NOW, WE NEED TO GIVE THE FRENCH TWO RESPONSES. FIRST, ON THE SPECIFIC MATTER OF US CREDIT BEING USED FOR THIRD COUNTRY SUPPLY OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT. IF THE US CANNOT GIVE CREDIT, CAN WE HELP PERSUADE IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA TO FINANCE. BOTH HAVE A SIGNIFICANT SECURITY INTEREST IN PAKISTAN'S FUTURE. SECOND, WE SHOULD PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL SPECIFICS ON THE COORDINATED ASSISTANCE PACKAGE - BRIEFLY DESCRIBED REF B - IF POSSIBLE, TO THE EXTENT THAT WOULD GIVE THE FRENCH SOME ASSURANCE THAT THEY COULD MAKE SOME SALES TO PAKISTAN. BOTH OF THESE RESPONSES ARE NEEDED BY VERY EARLY NEXT WEEK, THE WEEK OF JUNE 12. I ASSUME GUIRINGAUD IS FOLLOWING ALL POSSIBLE ANGLES ON THIS MATTER TO BE WELL PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS ON JUNE 15 AND INDEED TO TAKE UP WITH SECRETARY BEFORE THE 15TH WHEN HE SEES HIM IN PARIS.
HARTMAN

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